

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 31, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. MALLORY submitted the following

R E P O R T .

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of J. H. Carter, for himself, J. W. Bennett, and R. B. Lowry, lieutenants in the navy, praying to be allowed the difference of pay between the grades of master and lieutenant, during the time they served as acting lieutenants in the East India squadron, have had the same under consideration, and report :

The third section of the act of June 17, 1844, repeals so much of the acts of 1835 and 1842 "as provides that officers temporarily performing the duties belonging to those of a higher grade shall receive the compensation allowed to such higher grade while actually so employed." The act of August 10, 1846, makes an exception in favor of passed midshipmen "performing the duties of master, under the authority of the Secretary of the Navy," and provides that they shall "receive the pay allowed to such higher grade while actually so employed"—an exception established, in the opinion of your committee, in consequence of the peculiarly responsible duties of masters as navigators of our ships-of-war.

Your committee can see no sufficient claim on the part of the petitioners, in the temporary performance of the duty of a higher grade, in the regular line of the naval service, under the detail of the commander-in-chief of a squadron, to require that exception should be made in their favor from the provisions of the act of 1844; but, on the contrary, they do perceive that the granting their prayer would open the doors of Congress to innumerable applications of equal merit. Officers commissioned as lieutenants, under the appointment of the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, now on duty in our foreign squadrons, are receiving at the rate of \$1,050 per annum only, and bearing all the expenses of their grade, in outfit and uniform, while your petitioners, for service of one year as "acting lieutenants," ask to be allowed at the rate of \$1,500 per annum.

Your committee, therefore, under the general rule of action adopted by them, and mentioned in a previous report, to wit: "the policy of refusing to grant to the officers of the navy any higher compensation than that allowed to them by law," feel constrained to report adversely to the prayer of the petitioners.

